

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for increasing retrievable ~~preparing for intraductal retrieval of~~ fluid, cells and/or other material from a breast duct of a patient, comprising:

administering intraductally to the patient an agent that increases the secretion of ductal fluid into a breast duct, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a hypotonic solution, a buffered solution, a nonabsorbable biocompatible solution, a protein, a colloid, a sugar, a polymer, mannitol, sorbitol, glucose, glycerol, sucrose, raffinose, fructose, lactulose, polyethyleneglycol (PEG), maltodextrin, dextran, dextran 70, hydroxyethyl starch, fluid gelatin, a synthetic colloid, an antibody, a binding protein, albumin, a hormone, a natural herb, an extract from a natural herb, silymarin, a surfactant, a growth factor, oxytocin, prolactin, an organic molecule, a muscle relaxant, and a ductal orifice dilator.

Claims 2-5 (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the agent is in a state selected from the group consisting of a non-liquid, a gel, an emulsion, a gas and a semi-solid.

Claims 7-11 (cancelled)

12. (withdrawn) A method of collecting ductal fluid from a breast duct having artificially increased retrievable ductal fluid comprising accessing a breast duct with a device and withdrawing a portion of the ductal fluid into the device.

13. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 12, wherein withdrawn ductal fluid comprises a plurality of ductal epithelial cells.

14. (withdrawn) A method for increasing a retrievable cell amount in a breast duct comprising inducing cell sloughing within the duct by applying vibration to the duct.

15. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 or claim 12 further comprising increasing a retrievable cell amount in a breast duct comprising inducing cell sloughing within the duct by applying vibration to the duct.

16. (withdrawn) A method for preparing for intraductal retrieval of fluid, cells and/or other material from a breast duct of a patient, comprising:

administering to the patient an agent that increases retrievable secreted ductal fluid in a breast duct, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a hypotonic solution, a buffered solution, a solution having a pH range of human tissue, blood or sera, a solution having a slightly acid pH, a solution having a slightly basic pH, a nonabsorbable biocompatible solution, a protein, a colloid, a sugar, a polymer, mannitol, sorbitol, glucose, glycerol, sucrose, raffinose, fructose, lactulose, polyethyleneglycol (PEG), maltodextrin, dextran,

dextran 70, hydroxyethyl starch, fluid gelatin, a synthetic colloid, an antibody, a binding protein, albumin, a hormone, a natural herb, an extract from a natural herb, silymarin, a surfactant, a growth factor, oxytocin, prolactin, an organic molecule, a muscle relaxant, and a ductal orifice dilator;

accessing the breast duct with a device and withdrawing a portion of the increased retrievable secreted ductal fluid into the device.

17. (withdrawn) The method as in claim 16, further comprising the step of analyzing one or more of cells, fluid or other material in the breast duct after said administering and accessing steps.

18. (withdrawn) The method as in claim 17 wherein the step of analyzing comprises identifying a marker of a breast condition.

19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein said administering is accomplished by a mode selected from the group consisting of administering the agent systemically, and administering the agent topically.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the agent is administered systemically.

21. (withdrawn) The method as in claim 20, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a hormone, prolactin, a breast duct secretion inducing factor, a natural herb,

an extract from a natural herb, silymarin, a growth factor, a vitamin, a protein, a muscle relaxant, and an organic molecule.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the agent is a nonabsorbable biocompatible solution.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of mannitol and sorbitol.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a sugar, glucose, sucrose, raffinose, fructose, and lactulose.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of polyethyleneglycol (PEG), maltodextrin, dextran, and dextran 70.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is an extract from a natural herb.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a growth factor, oxytocin, and prolactin.